

Affordability Committee Notes – July 17, 2007

Present: Pat Hanberry, chair; Pat Rosensteel, Ken Eidel, Maria Shuck, Nicole Hoff, Renee Kyttle, Sue Hecht, Carol Antoniewicz.

Introductions: Renee Kyttle has joined the committee. She staffs the NAMI hotline and is active with NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness, a family support organization. Nicole Hoff is heading to Tulane for grad school in public health.

Executive Committee Report (Pat):

Meets twice a month, Mondays at 8 am. The needs assessment started July 16. Theme is “Don’t Hang Up” to encourage people to participate. Results are due by September. Focus group info will give community context, not show up in survey results. Groups will be business and community leaders, not consumers.

Since funds may be needed for printing, etc. Executive Committee is contemplating a dues structure. They are polling members “are you representing an agency or yourself?” Pat R. – Fred. Co. government; Ken – Abilities Network; Maria – Centro Hispano; Sue Hecht – Md. General Assembly; Renee – self; Carol A. – self; Pat Hanberry – MHA.

Discussion: what are obligations/benefits of membership? General sense is that setting and collecting dues might alienate people and be hard to administer. We recommended they seek donations or sponsorship for project expenses. Community Foundation has agreed to accept funds for the Coalition and serve as our fiscal agent. Therefore there is no push to obtain 501c3 status.

Possibilities: one group may get incorporated as a primary care clinic/network. Tom Werner wants to develop a wellness committee/prevention.

Future Full Coalition meeting dates: Wednesday, October 3, 4 pm at FMH to present results of community survey. We’ll to decide how to present it to the larger community.

Refining our Objectives:

#4 - Identify community groups, educate them about needs assessment, health needs; how to contact legislators in support of legislation. We should develop an “elevator speech” (one minute message) and a longer presentation that can be made to community groups.

#1 – Executive Committee has agreed to have presentation (1 to 1 ½ hrs.) at the December full coalition meeting about the legislative process. Sue Hecht, and hopefully Weldon, likely date Dec. 12. **Sue** will check with Rick.

#3 – We will suggest that Needs Assessment Committee meet with Frederick legislators, so our Annapolis representatives will be well aware of needs re health coverage. The delegation will hold a “meet the delegates” session at FCC in November so community groups can get time with them, probably 15-20 minute slots. Some delegates need to be educated that non-profits ARE allowed to lobby. Second Saturday in December is a similar session at Winchester Hall.

#5 – increasing enrollment in public health coverage, discuss at next meeting.

Federal – Renewal issues for children’s health, SCHIP:

Congress must renew this before Sept. 30, called MCHP in Maryland. Great program for families up to 300% of poverty. There is some controversy over spending amounts, coverage for legal immigrants. Carol shared info from www.familiesusa.org and www.covertheuninsured.org on contacting Congressional reps. She will try to schedule a meeting with Bartlett in Frederick, or with his health policy person. Interested: Ken, Pat H., Carol, maybe Maria. **Carol** will get possible times and email the group. If we do not meet with him, we will write letter and follow-up.

Other:

- Pat shared a list of those who’ve been attending coalition meetings. This can help identify folks we might recruit for Affordability. We should also identify community folks who should be invited onto the coalition.
- No meeting in August. **Next meeting will be September 18.**